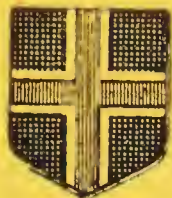


THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND OTHER RECORDS  
FOR 1956.

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM  
G. BAILES & SONS, PRINTERS. ETC.

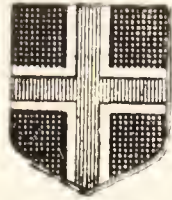
1957.



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1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

R. GORDON DRUMMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Also Medical Officer of Health Durham Rural District, Brandon and Byshottles Urban District, Assistant County Medical Officer County Durham).

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH (Retired 31.10.56).

RODENT OPERATIVE :

MR. F. C. SUMMERS (Commenced 19.11.56).

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS J. M. CLARK.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report, that for the year 1956.

The state of health in the City continued to be, in general, good, the vital statistics indicating satisfactory progress. Attention is drawn in the Report to the continued low infant mortality rate, combined this year with a low still birth rate, together held to be indications of a satisfactory state of health and well-being in a community.

There was no undue prevalence of infectious disease, indeed the number of notifications of all conditions was low. This year saw the introduction of vaccination against poliomyelitis—yet another in the lengthening list of immunisation procedures against disease—and one which is attended with considerable public interest, not unnaturally in view of the dread in which the condition is generally held.

The Chiropody Service for old people, commenced in 1954, continued to function well and was extended by the opening in September of a second clinic, that at the Shakespeare Hall in North Road. There is no doubt of the benefit of Chiropody to the health of old people and equally no doubt about their appreciation of its provision.

It is pleasing to report that co-operation with other interests, including the other parts of the Health Service, continues to be good and in particular I value the cordial relations maintained with medical practitioners, both in general and hospital practice, and the County Medical Officer and his staff.

I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen for your support and encouragement during the year, the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. L. Oates and the staff of the Department for their continued conscientious attention to every detail of the work and the Officers of the Council for their co-operation.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. GORDON DRUMMOND.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... 4,578.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population :—20,460.

Number of inhabited houses end of 1956 :—6,015.

Rateable value, 1955 :—£149,547. 1956 :—£305,490.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1955 :— £589 3s. 2d.  
1956 :—£1,280 15s. 2d.

Registrar General's area comparability factors :—

Births 0.97

Deaths 0.99

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.	
Legitimate ...	157	124	281	Rate per 1,000 pop- ulation 14.3. Adjusted 13.8.
Illegitimate .....	6	5	11	
Total .....	<u>163</u>	<u>129</u>	<u>292</u>	

## STILL BIRTHS.

Legitimate .....	2	2	4	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births, 13.5.
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—	
Total .....	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	

## DEATHS.

All causes .....	105	118	223	Rate per 1,000 pop- ulation, 10.9. Adjusted, 10.8.
------------------	-----	-----	-----	--

INFANT MORTALITY	(Deaths of children under 1 year of age) :			
Legitimate .....	4	2	6	Rate 20.5 (per 1,000 live births).
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—	
Total ...	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	—

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

### *Area.*

4,578 Acres. The City borders on the North, East and South with Durham Rural District and on the West with Brandon and Byshottles Urban District.

### *Population.*

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 20,460 an increase of 20 from 1955.

### *Inhabited Houses.*

The number of inhabited houses is 6015.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The Registrar General's Area Comparability Factors for Births and Deaths are a means of adjusting the rates for Births and Deaths so that the population of the District is directly comparable with the population of England and Wales in so far as distribution by age and sex is concerned. The adjusted figures are those to be compared with the figures for England and Wales and with the similarly adjusted figures for other areas.

### *Births.*

During the year 292 live births were registered, 163 males and 129 females. Of these 11 were illegitimate.

There were 15 more births than in 1955.

The birth rate (adjusted) of 13.8 is to be compared with that of 13.1 for last year.

### *Deaths.*

223 deaths were registered, 15 less than in 1955 and the death rate (adjusted) of 10.8 compares with that for 1955 when it was 11.9.

The table of causes of death shows that Diseases of the Heart and Circulation accounted for 90 of the deaths registered, or 40%. Deaths from Cancer number 29 compared with 35 in 1955.

71% of all deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65.

*Infant Mortality* : (Deaths of children under 1 year of age).

The rate of 20.5 per 1,000 live births was lower than last year when it was 21.7. The lowest recorded rate in the City was in 1952 when it was 19.4.

The figure for England and Wales for 1956 is 23.8.

6 children died before reaching one year of age, the same number as last year.

The actual numbers for the past 10 years are :—

1947	...	...	17	1952	...	...	6
1948	...	...	8	1953	...	...	8
1949	...	...	11	1954	...	...	13
1950	...	...	13	1955	...	...	6
1951	...	...	14	1956	...	...	6

and these numbers should be read in conjunction with the rates given in the table and should be borne in mind in assessing the change in the rate over the years. As the numbers of infant deaths each year are comparatively small, too great significance should not be attached to a single rate.

Of the six children who died before reaching one year of age five were less than one month old.

Of these five, four died of prematurity and one of conditions associated with congenital abnormalities.

In my report in previous years it was pointed out that consideration of the infant mortality is not complete without consideration at the same time of the Still Birth Rate. The number of still births and the number of deaths in the first weeks of life taken together represent the mortality occurring at or about the time of birth.

			1955	1956
Infant Mortality Rate	...		21.7	20.5
Still Birth Rate	...	...	28.1	13.5

It is a matter for satisfaction that this year the low infant mortality rate is associated with a low still birth rate.

*Maternal Mortality.*

Again there were no maternal deaths during the year.

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
223	6	—	1	1	1	9	47	158

## INFANT MORTALITY.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total
Prematurity ..	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital Malformations ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Paroxysmal Tachycardia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY  
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Birth Rate	20·0	17·9	15·4	16·8	14·4	17·6	16·9	14·3	13·1	13·8
Death Rate	13·3	9·9	11·0	10·9	11·0	11·3	11·9	11·8	11·8	10·8
Infant Mortality	49	32	35	22	47	19·4	26·8	45·3	21·6	20·5

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1956 OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 live Births).
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	
England and Wales .. ..	15.6	22.9	11.7	23.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	15.6	23.0	11.6	24.0
160 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) .. ..	15.6	22.7	11.6	24.1
Administrative County of Durham	17.8	24.6	11.3	27.0
Durham City .. .. .	13.8	13.5	10.8	20.5
London .. .. .	15.9	20.2	11.7	21.4

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1956.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES .. .. .	223	105	118
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	4	3	1
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping cough .. .. .	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	6	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	7	7	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	3	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	3	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	10	5	5
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	—	—	—
Diabetes .. .. .	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	28	11	17
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	30	20	10
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	7	5	2
Other heart disease .. .. .	44	13	31
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	9	6	3
Influenza .. .. .	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. .. .	15	7	8
Bronchitis .. .. .	8	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	2	2	—
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	1	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	—	—
Congenital malformations .. .. .	2	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	32	10	22
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	2	1	1
All other accidents .. .. .	5	2	3
Suicide .. .. .	4	2	2
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—	—

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

*Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.*

*Scarlet Fever* : There were seven notifications ; the same number as in the previous year. Five of the cases were admitted to Hospital.

*Whooping Cough* : There were only 46 cases notified as opposed to 100 last year. In general the character of the disease was mild. It is worth reiterating, however, the comment made last year that it is in young children that the disease is most distressing and dangerous. Whooping Cough should not be regarded as a " minor ailment of childhood " young children and debilitated children of any age should so far as possible be shielded from the risk of contracting it.

Many general practitioners in the City administer immunising agents against the disease but the Local Health Authority scheme does not yet provide for their administration.

*Acute Poliomyelitis* : Five cases were notified, four of which were diagnosed in Hospital in the City but came from elsewhere. The one City case was of paralytic poliomyelitis in a child, happily not severe.

During the year vaccination against poliomyelitis was commenced, the vaccine being administered under carefully controlled conditions to children in selected age groups whose parents had notified in writing their consent to the procedure. Selection of the age groups was made for the Country as a whole by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health.

Sessions for administration of the vaccine were conducted at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Old Elvet.

*Measles* : There were only twelve cases notified, as against 223 the previous year. In general the character of the disease continued to be mild and no deaths were attributed to it.

*Diphtheria* : For the fourth successive year there were no cases of diphtheria.

Again it must be repeated that it should be clearly understood that absence of cases does not constitute grounds for discontinuing immunisation against diphtheria. Rather is the reverse the case, the population receiving no stimulus to immunity from natural sources is the more susceptible to the effects of importation of the disease into the City, an eventuality which may occur at any time.

In this connection, it is of interest that in the whole of England and Wales there occurred, during 1956, 64 cases of whom eight died.

The tables of diphtheria immunisation figures show that records were received of 192 children under the age of 5 having received during the year full courses of primary immunisation, the corresponding figure for 1955 being 181.

632 children under five years of age had completed a full course of immunisation by 31st December, 1956. It is estimated that this figure represents only 51% of those children eligible for immunisation. This is a low figure.

The County Medical Officer of Health arranges that in order to draw attention to the need for immunisation leaflets are distributed by post at 8 months and 12 months and, to encourage re-inforcing doses at the age of 4 years 9 months. These give details of the facilities available.

*Dysentery* : Only one case was notified and that was from Hospital in respect of a case coming from elsewhere.

*Meningococcal Infection* : The eight cases notified were all hospital cases, none admitted from the City.

*Tuberculosis* : The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was 20, the figure for last year being 13. There was one new case of non-pulmonary disease. Of the 20 new pulmonary cases 16 were in persons aged between 15 and 35 years.

#### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever .....	7	5	—
Whooping Cough .....	46	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	4	—
Paralytic .....			
Non-Paralytic .....			
Measles .....	12	—	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	2	—	15
Dysentery .....	1	1	—
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis ....	—	—	—
Infective .....			
Post-Infectious ....			
Typhoid Fever .....	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .....	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ..	8	8	—
Food Poisoning .....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 .....	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 .....	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 .....	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45 .....	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 — 55 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and Upwards ....	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	10	10	1	—	3	1	—	—

NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN PAST 10 YEARS.

					Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
					New cases.	Deaths.	New Cases.	Deaths.
1946	..	..	..	..	15	6	5	0
1947	..	..	..	..	24	5	8	0
1948	..	..	..	..	11	5	5	1
1949	..	..	..	..	11	2	1	0
1950	..	..	..	..	25	8	3	0
1951	..	..	..	..	24	5	4	1
1952	..	..	..	..	9	3	3	1
1953	..	..	..	..	20	4	3	1
1954	..	..	..	..	12	3	1	0
1955	..	..	..	..	13	5	2	1
Average for 10 years ..					16.4	4.6	3.5	0.5
1956	..	..	..	..	20	4	1	0

## CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
31st December, 1955 .....	75	47	12	9	87	56
31st December, 1956 .....	85	57	13	9	98	66

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1956.

Live Births Registered.		Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1956.		Records received during the year of full courses of primary immunisations.			Records received during the year of reinforcing injections.
1955	1956	Under 5	5—15	Under 5	5—15	Total.	0—15
277	292	632	1566	192	2	194	81

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1956.

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
22	116	170	152	172	172	203	178	205	135	106	90	180	174	123

## CHIROPODY SERVICE FOR OLD PEOPLE.

*Report for the year ending 31st December, 1956.*

GILESGATE CENTRE.

### *Introduction.*

This was the third year of activity of the chiropody clinic conducted at the Vane Tempest Hall, Gilesgate, on behalf of the Durham Old Peoples' Welfare Association.

Sessions were held on Mondays and Tuesdays each week until September (when the Shakespeare Hall Clinic was commenced) and thereafter on Monday mornings and afternoons and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 8 appointments being made for each session.

Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S. continued as chiropodist.

During the year the City Engineer (Mr. L. E. Ellis) kindly arranged for the construction and fitting of a good locking cupboard for the storage of dressings.

### *Voluntary Assistance.*

The British Red Cross Society (Area Commandant, Mrs. Allan) provided a total of 1,082 hours attendance. The arrangement is for two members to attend each clinic session.

The Durham Samaritan Society (Honorary Secretary—Mrs. Perrott, Honorary Treasurer—Mrs. McDonald) which furnished the equipment at the outset continued to subscribe the cost of dressings.

### *Treatment.*

During the year clinics were held on 111 days during which there were 200 clinic sessions of three hours.

At the full number of 8 per session this would have allowed 1,600 treatments whereas the actual number given was 1,493 representing 93% of the possible. Missed appointments account for the difference between the possible and actual number of treatments.

The average number of treatments given each session was 7.5.

The number of persons on the list on 1st January, 1956, was 331 and the number of persons treated for the first time during the year was 47.

69 persons transferred to the Shakespeare Hall Clinic when it opened.

The volume of requests for treatment, even after the second clinic opened, was such that appointments could be made only for sessions about one month in advance.

## SHAKESPEARE HALL CENTRE.

*Report for the Period 25/9/56—31/12/56.*

*Introduction.*

The Chiropody Clinic was commenced on 25th September, 1956.

Like the one at Gilesgate it is conducted on behalf of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association.

Mr. E. L. Chambers, M.Ch.S., is the Chiropodist.

Sessions are held on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings each week.

*Premises.*

The premises are the Shakespeare Memorial Hall in North Road.

A fee of ten shillings per session is paid for the use of the accommodation which consists of a hall for use as a waiting-room in which also the bookings are made, a kitchen in which tea is made, and a well furnished treatment room. The premises are comfortable and well-heated and are well-suited for the purpose. A somewhat steep and long access staircase has not proved, in practice, to be the handicap that was at first feared.

*Assistance.*

Members of the British Red Cross Society provide voluntarily the assistance required, which includes the booking arrangements and the collection of fees.

During the period a total of 156 hours attendance was given.

*Equipment.*

The Durham Samaritan Society paid for the equipment and is also providing for the payment of dressings.

The cost of this equipment was £46. 6s. 11d. It consists of :—

Chiropody Chair.  
Chiropodist's Stool.  
Dressing Trolley.  
Lamp.  
Box of record cards.

A locking cupboard for the storage of dressings was constructed and fitted by the City Engineer.

*Treatment.*

During the period there were conducted 26 sessions of 3 hours.

At the full number of 8 per session this would have allowed 208 treatments. The actual number given, however, was 197 or 95% of the possible. The difference is due to missed appointments. In other words, of every 19 appointments made, one was not kept.

The average number of treatments given each session was 7.6.

The number of patients on the books on 31st December, 1956, was 104. 69 persons transferred from the Gilesgate Clinic of whom three subsequently returned to it.

The waiting time for bookings is 6 or 7 weeks.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Patients were charged 2/- for each treatment. The City Council's resolution is to contribute up to one third of one penny rate to defray expenses (National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 31). Mr. L. Watkins, City Treasurer, who is Honorary Treasurer of the Durham Old People's Welfare Association has kindly provided the following statement :—



## REMARKS.

The Chiropody Clinic is now fully established as a feature in the lives of many of the elderly citizens. They appreciate the contribution it makes to their ease of going about (and the importance of this contribution should not be underestimated) and they enjoy, I think, the friendly and informal atmosphere in which it is conducted. Certainly they frequently express their appreciation of the service.

As in previous years I would draw attention to the very good attendance figures which are a credit to the patients. When the effects of illness and difficulty in walking are taken into account, influenced as they are by inclement weather for part of the year, it is remarkable that such a good attendance is maintained.

The second chiropody Clinic was commenced only after the most careful consideration as to whether its commencement was, in fact, required. The record to date appears to justify the decision. It is conveniently situated for many parts of the City from which the Gilesgate Clinic is somewhat remote.

The continued successful operation of the Scheme is the result of the efforts of all those mentioned in this Report, individuals and organisations, and it would be invidious to single out any for special mention.

## SUMMARY.

					<i>Gilesgate.</i>		<i>Shakespeare Hall.</i>	
					1955	1956	25th Dec. 1956	Sept-31st 1956
Sessions	...	...	...	...	194	200	26	
Days on which Sessions held	...			...	97	111	26	
Treatments given :								
Possible	...	...	...	...	1,552	1,600	208	
Actual	...	...	...	...	1,430	1,493	197	
					(92%)	(93%)	(95%)	
Treatments per Session :								
Possible	...	...	...	...	8	8	8	
Actual Average	...	...	...	...	7.4	7.5	7.6	
Hours by Red Cross Voluntary Workers								
Workers	...	...	...	...	1,147	1,082	156	

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. *Public Health Services of the Local Authority.*
2. *Laboratory Services.*
  - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Department of Pathology.
  - (ii) Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle.
  - (iii) Public Analyst, Victoria Road, Darlington.
  - (iv) County Analyst, Shire Hall, Durham.
3. *General Medical Services.*

Durham County Executive Council, 20, New Elvet,  
Durham
4. *Newcastle Regional Hospital Board.*

Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

*Durham Hospital Management Committee, Dryburn Hospital,  
Durham.*

  - (a) *General.*
    - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
    - (ii) County Hospital, Durham.
    - (iii) Crossgate Hospital, Durham (Long Stay).
  - (b) *Maternity.*
    - (i) Dryburn Hospital.
    - (ii) Croxdale Maternity Hospital (until May, 1957).
  - (c) *Infectious.*
    - (i) Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital.
    - (ii) Langley Park Isolation Hospital (Smallpox).
  - (d) *Tuberculosis.*
    - (i) Dryburn Hospital, Durham.
    - (ii) Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street.
    - (iii) Chest Clinic, Earl's House Hospital.
    - (iv) Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, Havelock Hospital,  
Sunderland.

*(e) Mental.*

- (i) Winterton Hospital, Sedgfield.
- (ii) Aycliffe Hospital.
- (iii) Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.
- (iv) Earl's House Hospital.
- (v) Crossgate Hospital, Durham.

*(f) Pre-Convalescent.*

Brandon Hospital.

*(g) Venereal Diseases Clinic.*

County Hospital, Durham.

5. *Durham County Council, Health Services.**(a) School Health Services.**(b) Ambulance Services,*

County Ambulance Headquarters, Framwellgate Moor,  
Durham.

*(c) Health Visiting.**(d) Home Nursing.**(e) Domiciliary Midwifery.**(f) Domestic Help.**(g) Vaccination and Immunisation.**(h) Care of Mothers and Young Children.**(i) Child Welfare Centres.*

Belmont—Parish Hall.

Durham—14, Old Elvet.

Gilesgate—Vane Tempest Hall.

*(ii) Artificial Sunlight Clinic.*

Durham.

*(iii) Birth Control Clinics.*

Durham.

*(iv) Post Natal Clinics.*

Durham.

*(i) Prevention of Illness, care and after care, loan of equipment and appliances.**(j) Accommodation under Part III National Assistance Act.*  
Crossgate Hospital.

DURHAM,

August, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1956.

An important part of the year's activities resulting from the improved legislation under the Food Hygiene Regulations has been that relating to hygiene in food premises.

A considerable number of improvements have been carried out in food premises, partly at the request of your Public Health Inspectors (these particulars are given in detail in my Report) and partly by the traders anticipating our requirements.

No new slum clearance areas have been dealt with since the War but this part of the Department's work has not been neglected.

Whilst the Council has concentrated on rehousing of tenants from pre-war clearance areas informal action over the past three years has been taken by the Department, in co-operation with owners, resulting in the demolition of a total of 46 vacant unfit houses. A number of other houses in a proposed clearance area have been, on rehousing of the tenants, left vacant pending demolition.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. Gordon Drummond, for their kindly support during the past year and also to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation of Mr. Bittlestone and the Staff of the Health Department and other Officials of the Council.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE OATES,  
Senior Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S GENERAL SUMMARY  
SUBMITTED TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR YEAR 1956.

2. CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. Formal Action.

(i) No. of houses demolished during year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ... ..	5
(ii) No. of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action ... ..	8
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses demolition of which temporarily postponed ... ..	58
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation. (Housing, Repairs, and Rents Act, 1954. Part 1.) ...	—

B. Informal Action.

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	4
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3. RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts :

(a) As a result of informal action ... ..	160
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ...	11
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	5

4. IMPROVEMENTS GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949.

	No. of separate houses.
(a) Applications submitted to Local Authority ...	10
(b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ...	1
* (c) Total No. of applications approved since inception of scheme ... ..	36

\* 22 only where proposed works have been carried out.

## GENERAL SUMMARY

	No. of inspections	No. of INFORMAL Notices served.	No. of STATUTORY Notices served.	Defects remedied after Notice.
Housing :				
Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .	1,531	75	9	66
Overcrowding .. ..	12	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient .. .. .	2	2	—	2
Defective .. .. .	41	41	2	41
Drainage .. .. .	344	59	5	59
Water Supply .. .. .	12	3	—	3
Food Premises .. .. .	572	45	—	24
Shops Act .. .. .	38	12	—	12
Dairies .. .. .	14	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses :				
Public .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Private .. .. .	154	1	—	1
Tents, Vans, etc. .. ..	5	—	—	—
Offensive Trades .. ..	—	—	—	—
Factories & Workplaces ..	64	16	—	16
Keeping of Animals .. ..	35	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits & Receptacles .. .. .	25	25	—	25
Offensive accumulations ..	7	7	—	7
Smoke Nuisances .. ..	19	—	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 .. ..	1,283	12	—	12
Totals .. .. .	4,158	298	16	268

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	588
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	1,531
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	12
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... ..	144

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	160
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## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

## A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners ... ..	11
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	5

## B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners ... ..	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of informal procedure under Section 11 ... ..	4

## D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	3
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## INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 1,485 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 239 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 18 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 13 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in 5 cases.

879 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

## HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 151 houses were erected in the City area comprising 38 council houses and 113 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1956, the number of council houses and flats erected since the war totalled 1,073.

The total number of houses and flats built for and controlled by the Council was, at the date mentioned, 1,713. In addition to these properties the Council have the letting, when vacant, of any of the 365 houses owned by the North Eastern Housing Association, Ltd.

At 31st December, 1956, twenty-four properties in confirmed slum clearance areas (occupied by ten families and twenty-six single persons) were still in use.

Re-housing of these tenants proceeded satisfactorily except in the case of those houses occupied by single elderly persons.

Such persons are very reluctant to leave their present homes and often refuse the offer of suitable alternative accommodation.

Although one is reluctant to exert pressure in such cases firm action will be necessary in the near future so as to allow demolition of pre-war clearance area properties which are becoming progressively more dilapidated.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES INVESTIGATION DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

30 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 10 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

39 premises, of which 32 were council houses, were disinfested.

Treatments for vermin disinfestation were also carried out at a hospital and college.

## RODENT CONTROL.

*Sewer Maintenance Treatments* : In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries two maintenance treatments of the City's sewers were carried out during the year. A total of 570 manholes were baited showing pre-bait takes in 77 manholes and poison takes in 77. The results show a slight increase in sewer infestation, as compared with previous years.

*Surface Infestations* : All Council properties likely to become infested received periodical visits and treatments as required. The River Banks also received attention.

All cases of infestations in school canteens and hospitals were promptly attended to.

The Council continue to take full advantage of the Ministry's offer of grant aid, which, for the year under review will be half the irrecoverable expenditure incurred in the performance of functions under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year :—

	Dwelling Houses.	Business Premises.	Other Infested Places.	Totals
No. of Premises Visited ... ..	192	125	126	443
No. of visits ... ..	650	274	359	1,283
No. of Pre-baits ... ..	1,707	1,849	1,428	4,984
No. of Poison-baits	640	1,052	737	2,429
No. of Post-baits ... ..	536	704	647	1,887

## DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	113
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	18
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	41
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	16
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	11
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	8
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	36
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	11
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	195
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	16

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

One licence granted by the Council under the provisions of Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of a trailer caravan was in force in the year 1956.

# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	23	11	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	67	44	13	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	9	2	—
TOTAL .. ..	99	64	16	—

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. ..	3	3	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	12	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	16	16	—	5	—

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## FOOD PREMISES IN DURHAM CITY.

	<i>Trade.</i>						<i>Number.</i>
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Dairies and Purveyors of Milk					...	...	38
Fish, Game and Poultry				...	...	...	7
Fried Fish...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
General Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Greengrocers and Fruiterers				...	...	...	15
Grocers and Provision Merchants					...	...	32
Hotels, Cafes and Snack Bars	...				...	...	18
Ice Cream dealers		...	...	...	...	...	66

## MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued by the Council :—

1. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations :—

“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	12
“ Pasteurised ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences			8
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	37
“ Sterilised ” Milk Dealers' Supplementary Licences			3

2. Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations :—

“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Licences	...		3
“ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences	...	...	4

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with.

## REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

## ICE CREAM.

Seven applications for registration under the provisions of Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were approved by the Council making a total of 66 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice cream.

8 samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. In one case a sample proved to be unsatisfactory and a check made on the production machinery.

#### PRESERVED FOODS.

14 butchers are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, etc. and one firm for the preparation of pickled and preserved foods.

#### FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-56.

The above Regulations came into force on the 1st January, 1956, and apply to all premises where food is handled.

A condensed version of the Regulations was issued to all food premises in the City, and leaflets, posters and other literature describing and illustrating the precautions to be taken by food handlers were also distributed.

This action was followed up by inspection of food premises and interviews with Managers and other representatives of the firms concerned.

Advice was given on interpretation of the Regulations and requests made for necessary repairs, alterations and improvements required to bring premises up to the required standard.

279 visits were made to premises affected by the Regulations and the following works were completed during the year :—

Equipment—repairs and renewals	...	...	...	...	15
Protection of open foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	46
Sanitary conveniences :					
Re-decoration	...	...	...	...	1
Additional provided	...	...	...	...	1
Provision of hot water supply	...	...	...	...	17
Provision of handbasins	...	...	...	...	7
Provision of sinks	...	...	...	...	6
Provision of first aid equipment	...	...	...	...	5
Provision of accommodation for clothing	...	...	...	...	1
Re-decoration and repairs	...	...	...	...	18
Improved ventilation	...	...	...	...	4
Waste bins supplied	...	...	...	...	3
Refrigerators fitted	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous improvements	...	...	...	...	11

The majority of premises visited had attained a good standard of food hygiene practice before the Regulations came into force and only minor items required attention.

In all the cases dealt with the owners or representatives in the food trade were most co-operative and though there were differences of opinion on interpretation of certain parts of the Regulations the standard required by the City's Health Inspectors has been accepted.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed at the Council's incinerator :—

Bacon, 18 lbs.	Jam, 1 tin.
Beef, 30 lbs.	Lard, 28½ lbs.
Butter, 4 lbs.	Lentils, 1 lb.
Cake, 10 lbs.	Meat, 185 tins.
Chicken, 5 tins.	Milk, 33 tins.
Chocolate raisins, 20 pkts.	Paste, 1 jar.
Creamed Rice, 4 tins.	Pickles, 2 jars.
Currants, 3 lbs.	Pork kidneys, 2 tins.
Fish, 12 tins.	Sausage, 4 lbs. and 1 tin.
Fruit, 327 tins.	Soup, 8 tins.
Gammon, 3 tins.	Spaghetti, 96 tins.
Halibut, 2 st.	Suet, 10 pkts.
Ice cream, 100 lbs.	Vegetables, 106 tins.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

All beasts and pigs slaughtered in local slaughter-houses were inspected as were a large proportion of sheep.

154 visits were made in connection with such inspections and the following table gives details of animals slaughtered and meat and offals condemned :—

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE  
OR IN PART.

	Cattle Exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known) .. ..	98	1	—	480	114	—
Number inspected	98	1	—	431	114	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. ..	9	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	9.18	—	—	—	2.63	—
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tub- erculosis ..	7.14	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

A total of 13 st. 3 lbs. of condemned meat and offals was destroyed at the Council's incinerator.

Three slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council as against five in 1955.

All the carcasses examined were of excellent quality and the standard of slaughtering carried out by the nine persons holding slaughtermen's licences was satisfactory.

#### *Inspections :—*

During the course of the year 602 visits were made to food premises.

#### *Food Poisoning.*

No notifications of food poisoning occurring in the City Area were received.

### WATER SAMPLING.

#### *Water Supplies.*

Nine samples of tap water from Durham County Water Board mains were obtained for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The resultant laboratory reports showed the samples to be very satisfactory.

#### *Swimming Baths.*

Seven samples of water from the large and small swimming pools were obtained for bacteriological examination.

One sample taken in August was particularly unsatisfactory but subsequent samples proved to be excellent.

Results of such sampling are immediately notified to the Bath's Superintendent.

#### *Lectures.*

Any requests from organisations for talks on public health matters receive attention. Lectures have been given to student nurses and boy scouts examined for their Public Health Man Badge.

# SUMMARY OF WORK OF SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	262
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	588
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	943
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	602
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	141
Smoke, water and colour tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	239
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	210
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,283
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	135

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938-1950

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1956.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council and during the past year, the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Tinned Peeled Tomatoes	...	...	...	1	(Informal)
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	3	(Informal)
Butter	...	...	...	1	
Pork Sausage with preservative	...	...	...	1	
Lard	...	...	...	1	
Orange Squash	...	...	...	1	
Custard Powder	...	...	...	1	
Malt Vinegar	...	...	...	1	
White Pepper	...	...	...	1	
Cocoa...	...	...	...	1	
Camphorated Oil B.P.	...	...	...	1	
Olive Oil B.P.	...	...	...	1	
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	1	
Tinned Meat...	...	...	...	2	
Mustard	...	...	...	1	
Castor Oil B.P.	...	...	...	1	
Glycerine B.P.	...	...	...	1	
Glucose ' D '...	...	...	...	1	
Shredded Beef Suet	...	...	...	1	
Marmalade	...	...	...	1	
Blackcurrant Juice	...	...	...	1	
Canned Beer...	...	...	...	1	(Informal)
Milk Flavouring	...	...	...	2	(Informal)
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	25	
Pasteurised Milk T.T.	...	...	...	22	
Channel Islands Milk	...	...	...	2	

All 76 samples were reported genuine.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply comes from the Durham County Water Board's reservoirs. The supply was maintained throughout 1956 although shortage of rainfall during the summer months with consequent depletion of reserves led the Board once again to request consumers to reduce consumption. The quality of the supply continued to be good, and the Chief Engineer to the Board, reports that almost 80% of the distributed water samples came within the Ministry of Health's classification of Class I.

## REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

### *Refuse Collection.*

Regular weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year. Trade refuse is collected as required.

### *Public Baths.*

A 4 hour turnover with filtration and chlorination is maintained at the swimming pools.

### *Sewage Disposal.*

Plans for the enlargement of the Barker's Haugh, Sewage Works have been prepared and have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.



